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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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SUBJECT: Media Reaction - Op-ed on Somali terrorist movement Hizbul
Islaam by Swedish daily.

II. On March 13, the conservative Stockholm morning daily "Svenska
Dagbladet" published a signed op-ed by Per Gudmundson on the Swedish
citizen Yassin Ali, founder of Hizbul Islaam, a Somali terrorist
organization headlined 'Released from Swedish prison; founded
terrorist movement'.

"Swedish citizen Yassin Ali, living in Rinkeby, was detained for 105
days suspected of terrorist crimes. He was not released until June
11 last year, and in September the investigation was closed. The
evidence was not sufficient when the prosecutor tried to prove that
money had been transferred from Rinkeby to the terrorist movement
Shabaab in Somalia....

"Yassin Ali can now be found, together with another Swede, in the
leadership of a new armed organization. Hiznul Islaam, the Islamic
Party, was founded in January but has in a short time distinguished
themselves as one of Somalia's bloodiest....

"The Islamic Party is a coalition of four Islamist organizations of
which one is led by Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, who was listed as a
terrorist by the United States already in 2001....

"The head of the [Swedish] Security Police's contra-terrorism unit,
Mats Paulsson, knows about the movement. 'It is a new coalition
which has so far not committed what we regard as traditional
terrorist attacks such as suicide bombings. They have on the other
hand carried out assaults. Then there is the connection with the
aforementioned Aweys. However, with the present legislation it is
not possible to, legally speaking, prevent Swedish citizens to
participate in this kind of groups,' says Paulsson. As late as last
Sunday, the Islamic Party promised to continue the attacks. When
Swedish law is insufficient, someone else pays the price."

SILVERMAN